

S K E T C H
OF A
Plan
FOR
SETTLING IN UPPER CANADA,
A PORTION OF THE
Unemployed Labourers of England.

BY A SETTLER.

Agriculture is the proper business of all new colonies.—*Adam Smith.*

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INTRODUCTION.

THE following sketch of a plan for establishing settlements of indigent colonists in *Upper* Canada, has been made after some experience, in minute detail, of the advantages of locating wild land. The projector was also previously acquainted with practical farming. Being interested in the prosperity of the province, he may have deceived himself into the opinion that its value is inexcusably underrated in England. So far, however, as his testimony, thus qualified, can assist in correcting the error, he gives it without reserve, that climate, general fertility, and the means of comfortable subsistence, personal security considered, no country in the world sur-

passes *Upper* Canada. The inconvenience of a sea voyage, and the slight exposure of a frontier country in a time of war, will enter into the consideration of those who undertake to remove from uneasy homes.

It is conceived that for many years, the inhabitants of this province will be most profitably occupied in husbandry and coarse manufactures. It does not, however, appear to be material that settlers should be chosen from the agricultural counties only. Able bodied men of any class will quickly be qualified for the necessary occupations of a new country. Skill in certain works is *advantageous* there ; but mere manual labour is at first chiefly wanted ; and if England does not afford good employment for the mechanic, he may go thither without regret. He will not find himself disqualified by his previous habits from gaining a comfortable livelihood upon his own land. They will sometimes prove

valuable to him, when at intervals he labours for hire, or for himself, at his original trade; and the change from the shop to the axe and spade, if made profitably, will scarcely be attended with dissatisfaction.

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Agricultural Colonisation

IN

UPPER CANADA.

THE following sketch of a plan for colonising Upper Canada proposes to place in independence an almost unlimited number of people now subsisting by parochial relief; and to employ productively, *for a few years only*, the capital expended in the enterprize.

It differs from other plans lately suggested for diminishing the public burdens, inasmuch as it relies for success on the personal exertions of the colonists, uncontrolled by the perpetual presence of superintendants; and inasmuch as a boon, or a charity, is not intended to be given to them. The risks attending the plan are inconceivably small. The money advanced will not be paid over to

the people, but it will be laid out within two years in provisions and supplies of implements, and in stock for the settlement.

The cleared lands will constitute a mortgage to secure the repayment of that which then will be the colonists' debt, for goods consumed and converted into property by them.

During the laying out of the money and the clearing of the lands, some slight restrictions on the employment and alienation of the property will be imposed on the owners of it; but after the repayment of the capital employed, each individual in the settlement will be free from all interference. The time of such repayment, within ten years, will depend on the exertions of the settlers, who may receive their deeds on redeeming their land. The strong stimulus of personal advancement will be in full activity, and after the end of ten years the proprietors will be subject to the usual process for the recovery of debts.

Upper Canada contains many millions of

acres of fertile unoccupied land, with a climate suited to all agricultural pursuits. It possesses the same laws, the same manners, and, above all, the same constitution as England.

The excellence of the soil will enable a party, judiciously directed, to realize a grant in much comfort with a very small loan of capital indeed; and this province may be rendered essentially available to the mother country under the present pressures.

Families disposed to colonise, may be assumed to average five persons each, and it appears to me that sums of £200, managed with ordinary prudence, will enable any number of such families to acquire prosperous settlements in two years without exposure to privations; and within ten years to repay without interest the money advanced for them. The interest on the loan will be replaced, as it will be seen below, out of another source of profit as well as by the withdrawing of so many families from being chargeable.

It is also to be considered that the establishment of flourishing colonies extends the market for many home productions. The settlers cannot become wealthy without looking to us for a supply to their increasing want of manufactured goods*. They will begin to repay the principal money within three years after leaving England.

To illustrate my views by a familiar mode of statement, let it be supposed that a parish is determined to settle in Upper Canada 100 *willing* families (500 souls) on half a township, according to the usual rules of settlement now in force in that colony. The first expense to be incurred will be on the journey to the coast. For which purpose, to families of

* Independently of the question of general advantage or disadvantage of the colonial system of monopoly, beyond all dispute it is beneficial to England to have new and prosperous settlements planted in her distant possessions, provided the capital employed in supporting them is not permanently drawn from other occupations.—*Smith, Wealth of Nations, with notes, 1817, vol. ii. p. 443—445.*

five persons, taken indiscriminately from all parts of England, £20 to each family will be a high estimate, this will amount to £2000 to be advanced by the parish.

Transport and sea-fare to Montreal, will be assumed to be provided by the public at a cost of £30 a family. The parish will appoint managers to accompany the colonists ; who are to be remunerated by a share of the wild land. Every necessary arrangement previous, and three years subsequent to embarkation, will be attended to by these managers ; and the parish will provide funds from which the sum of £15,000 may be advanced in the instalments mentioned below.

Before any engagement be entered into, it should be particularly understood, that the proper quantity of land, in a part of the country *previously* selected, should be put into the hands of the managers, subject to the existing mode of settling.

A slight variation also in the principle of set-

ting out the crown and clergy reserves, appears to me to be worthy of previous attention. At present they are marked arbitrarily on the surveyors' maps, and sometimes impede the settlement of adjoining lots without any good object. Of lots, A, B, C, D, E, and F, the settlers now are compelled to place themselves upon A, C, D, and E. Instead of this, it would be extremely convenient that they should have the right of selecting their grants at their own discretion, in that part of the township they may be led to by the managers. Cultivation will then certainly penetrate into every corner of the country located ; and a marketable value will be given rapidly to the whole.

It frequently happens that a clergy, or a crown reserve, crosses the only *immediately* habitable spots of a district, the free ground being morass. Of the latter the intrinsic value, prior to cultivation, is equal to that of the former, and in process of time it becomes even more fertile ; but from its present state it is worse

than useless. If the settler were at liberty to reclaim the sound ground, his labour there would very probably make a drainage of the morass near it. His presence alone would give a value to adjoining reserves, which must be worthless unless approached by cultivation; and without some modification of this nature, the offered lots of morass will generally be rejected by the disappointed settler.

The quantity of land required for 100 families, is half a township, or 31,500 acres; which will be divided in the following proportions.

	Acres.
For the Settlers	10,000
For the Managers	5,000
For the Clergy	4,000
For the Crown	4,000
For the Town Plot, to belong to the Parish and Managers	2,000
For the Surveyors	1,500
For the Parish advancing the Capital	5,000
	<hr/>
	31,500
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The managers should be competent to give the settlers proper directions for the sale of

so much of their household goods as cannot usefully be carried with them ; and for the purpose of the present sketch the whole party will now be assumed to be safely landed at Montreal, in May.

The remaining capital of £150 to each family is hitherto untouched ; and a proportion of it, £50 will now be drawn for by the managers.

The expenditure upon one family will be traced as a convenient example of the progress of the whole party.

£50 to be drawn by the Managers in May 1822.	The journey to Kingston, with their luggage, at about £4 for each individual, will cost	£20
	Thence to the farthest settled Town-ship	20
	To keep the family and the father during the time he is visiting the lands and fixing on his lot	10
£45 in Junel 1822.	Putting up a log-house	5
	To keep the family six weeks whilst preparing a piece of ground for a spring crop, £8 ; and to take them to the house, £2	10

	A yoke of oxen, chain, and harrow	£22
	Seed for spring, viz. potatoes, oats, wheat, Indian corn, &c. four axes, spade and shovel, brush, hooks and hoes	6
	An old settler, to assist for a few days in order to direct them in the proper method of managing new lands	2
£21 to be drawn in October 1822.	Keeping the family till the autumn .	8
£15 to be drawn in January 1823.	A cow, sow in pig, and two or three middle aged pigs	7
£10 in May 1823.	Seed for autumn crop	1
	Putting up a log-barn	5
	To assist in keeping the family during the winter months	8
	Item for cattle	3
	An ox cart	4
	Seed for the spring	1
	Some little addition to their keep in the spring	4
	Another sow in pig	1
	One heifer coming three years old .	4
£9 in July 1824.	One ox of three years old, to kill in the second autumn	7
	Two ewe sheep in lamb	2
		£150

Thus assuming the plan to be adopted for 100 families, and to be carried into effect in 1822, the advance of money must be made in the following manner.

For the journey to the coast for 100 families, at £20 each family, 1st February, 1822.	£2000
For the voyage to Montreal, March 1822	3000
For the expenses to be incurred between May and June 1822	5000
Item, between June and October 1822.	4500
Item October 1822 and January 1823	2100
Item January and May 1823	1500
Item May and July 1823	1000
Item in July 1824	900
	£20,000

It appears to me to be impossible, that upon equal capital any set of men of the class here contemplated, can be placed so advantageously both to themselves and to the country, in any other part of the world as in Upper Canada.

The families will probably average three individuals each able to work, and at the end of two years from their first settlement they will be found to have made the following progress.

Under favourable circumstances the people will be placed on their land early in June, prepared to clear away for a spring crop. With common industry three such persons as we ought to presume our able settlers to be, will not find it difficult to get 5 acres sown in proper time in 1822; from which they may expect to raise about 50 bushels of wheat, 80 bushels of Indian corn with the usual quantity of pumpkins, musk and water melons, 100 bushels of potatoes, and a quantity of corn stalks and straw with garden productions; during the summer before the crops are harvested, the people will be employed in preparing 5 acres more for an autumn season, and this cleared ground with the former 5 acres will be ready for wheat in the first autumn. After sending a proportion of this first crop to mar-

ket, having a certain quantity turned into flour, salted their pigs, and put up a warm hovel for their cattle, they will in the winter of 1822—23 again be occupied in clearing more land for the ensuing spring. From my own experience I should say that the quantity prepared will be about 10 acres ; which will be sown with oats, Indian corn, barley, pumpkins, and turnips, and planted with potatoes. Besides this work, they will sow the first ten acres with seeds for a meadow ; during the second summer 5 acres more will be prepared for the second autumn ; and the several seasons will bring their own works on the lands previously cleared. Having thus, in the second autumn 10 acres of wheat land, and 10 acres of meadow with additional occupations for the winter of 1823—24, on this increase, they will be able to clear for the third spring only 5 acres more ; so that in the third harvest of 1824, such a family as we have assumed will possess 30 acres of cleared land and

70 uncleared; **10** acres of the **30** will be sown with wheat, **10** with spring crops, and **10** will be in meadow.

Their produce at the close of the third autumn, may be stated thus, at a low estimate.

From 10 acres of wheat, about	250 bushels
2 ditto of oats	70 ditto
2 ditto of Indian corn . .	100 ditto
2 ditto of barley	70 ditto
2 ditto of potatoes	300 ditto
2 ditto of turnips	200 ditto

Pumkins, in number about **5000**, or from **6** to **800** bushels, which are planted in the Indian corn hills.

Not more than ten tons of hay can be expected from the meadow, incumbered as it will be with stumps of trees, for several years. To this must be added the natural increase of the stock together with abundance of water and musk melons in the corn fields, and of garden productions, and an ox and several hogs in salt.

After this third autumn of 1824, the repayment of the capital advanced will begin; it will arise out of the production of the harvest of 1825, and the rate at which it will be made may be judged of by the foregoing statement. The effect of, and the pecuniary means of supporting this colony, may conveniently be considered with reference to the following example. A small scale is adopted for the purpose of simplicity; but effect can hardly be given to the views intended to be presented in this sketch, with fewer than 200 families.

In 1795, the parish of Barkham* in Berkshire contained 200 inhabitants, of whom about 40 besides the sick, received relief to the amount of £75 a year. The average expense of supporting the families of labourers in Barkham was then about £25 each; making the rate of £75 to be divisible amongst a number of people equivalent to three ordinary families,

* The case of labour in Husbandry stated by D. Davies, Rector of Barkham, 1795, 4to. p. 26.

which may be said to be the number in excess of the want in employments. If the parish could be disburdened of these three families and employment should not vary, these left behind would receive wages equal to their full support, until paupers again superabound.

The means for settling three families in Upper Canada is assumed to be a loan of £600, to be repaid in ten years, as before stated, and this sum will be raised easily by a mortgage of the rates under the sanction of an Act of Parliament. Thus the rates will be lowered forthwith to the interest of that loan, viz. to £30 a-year from £75; and they will decrease continually in proportion as the loan shall be repaid; and as the town plot and other land apportioned to the parish shall become marketable. This will be variable in point of time; and the amount of the proceeds will depend on the general prosperity of the whole settlement; it can hardly fail of

making a very considerable return within seven years of the colonists quitting England. According to the expenditure of Barkham, the rates for a surplus population of one hundred families is £2500 a-year. Upon this income it would be easy to borrow £20,000 under the authority of an Act of Parliament. The interest on which being taken at £1000 a-year, the parish from which the colonists could proceed would make a present annual saving of £1500.

All this may appear to afford a stimulus to population at home ; but before it can operate sensibly, the whole sum advanced will be repaid, and the measure may be repeated if experience shew it to be acceptable to the first settlers.

In the meantime the principle of compulsory relief, if erroneous, may be restricted in proportion to the number colonised without risking domestic commotions ; the pecuniary benefits bestowed on so many indigent families,

will convince the mass of the nation, that the proposed change is to be introduced upon just and kind motives; and new laws, if needed, may be passed by a Parliament freed from some of the existing difficulties.

To a settlement of this description, the managers should devote their whole attention; and a leader of intelligence would be amply remunerated by the share of wild lands to be apportioned to him in respect of a colony of from 500 to 2000 families.

The necessity of a personal residence with the people, during the time of distributing the lands, needs little illustration. The account given by the Duke de la Rochefoucault Liancourt, of the settlement of Sir William Pulteney's estate in Genessee, under the agency of Captain Williamson, will sufficiently explain this.—Liancourt's Travels in North America, in 1795—6—7, vol. i. p. 128, 4to.

Mr. Morris had bought the land at 5 pence an acre, and, in 1791, sold one million of

acres to Sir. William Pulteney, at 1 shilling per acre, or for £50,000. With other purchases, Captain Williamson, the manager, had possession of 1,500,000 acres of land, bounded on the north by Lake Ontario, in the state of New York. After building 10 mills, with a great number of houses, and making many hundred miles of road, 800,000 acres were resold at the price of one and three dollars an acre before the summer of 1795. The produce not only refunded the purchase money and the whole amount of the other expense incurred, but also yielded a net profit of £50,000 sterling. See the account of this model for settlements noticed with approbation in Mr. Brougham's Colonial Policy, vol. i.

p. 212, 8vo. 1803.

In order to have a suitable maximum of rank, it may be found advisable to permit half pay officers, surgeons and others to accompany the people - and if half the sum now paid quarterly to them should be redeemed, sufficient would remain for the retaining fee - and the capital thus provided would enable the officers to establish their families in hope

THE INDIANS OF UPPER CANADA.

Nothing has been said with reference to the Indians of Upper Canada, but the omission has not been occasioned by a want of sympathy for their sufferings. Their just interests are not immediately connected with the following Sketch; although their cause is of unlimited moral importance. It is felt that wrongs, most unprovoked, and never yet *nationally* attempted to be repaired, have been perpetrated upon them. Their history may be clearly traced, during the last 200 years, in a very long list of interesting accounts of their tribes. The subject has indeed called forth the best feelings as

well as some of the grossest cupidities of mankind.

The conduct of European governments, and the mass of individuals resident in the new countries, towards the North American Indians, admits of no excuse, because it has not been the result of necessity. The insulated attempts of many excellent private persons and societies, have *always been rewarded with good results commensurate with the means* employed to bring them to that state of existence, which alone will protect them from a miserable struggle, and ultimate extinction. The kind exertions of the few have always been accompanied, and have been thwarted by the more extensive activity of wrong policies in governments, or by brutish selfishness in individuals; and so, till now the rightful owners of a deserted soil have been crushed; the well-meaning amongst us considering their case hopeless, the crafty pretending it to be so.

The executive government of the United States appears* to be taking steps towards an important revolution with respect to the Indians of North America ; and it may be found necessary by the British authorities, to reconsider the principles upon which our own intercourse with them has been hitherto conducted. The only way in which their cause can be connected with the present Sketch is that a portion of the projected colony may be set apart for an Indian reserve. This may be thought right even if a title no longer exists in any tribe, as is probably true, to the lands now about to be settled ; it may prove good policy, and a wise benevolence to hold out to wanderers a link of connection with humanised society. The suggestion is made after some consideration ; and the necessary details of management, are neither many, nor complicated. The policy of England has, with some exceptions, been to add her conquests to her-

* See the last speech of the President to Congress.

self integrally, and no good reason can be given against many of the Indians in Canada becoming gradually integral portions and members of the British community. It is informant only that they can be said to be independent nations. This suggested reserve of a place of national hospitality, has reference to the forming of a connection between Indians in Upper Canada and ourselves, as fellow subjects of the same government. That something of this kind ought to be attempted, no man of right feelings will deny ; and that the Indians themselves are thoroughly incapable of being worked upon by these principles of treatment, no man acquainted with their history, can venture to assert. It is the orator*, and not the man, who says that under all circumstances uncivilised tribes will meet the nations of Europe with hostility, rejecting even friendship prior to any experience of our

* See Erskine's speech in defence of Stockdale.

good or bad qualities. The fact is not so; it is true that bands of hunters will not suddenly become sowers of corn, and be confined to narrow districts, and to close mechanical occupations, but the numerous intermediate steps between highly cultivated society, and wild habits, have been taken by great numbers of American Indians most rapidly. In the small island of Nantucket, alone, in New England, there were in 1720, eight hundred Christian communicants of these people, in three congregations. Gospels and grammars were printed in their language, and domestic implements of all kinds were prepared in their then fixed villages, for sale to the European settlers. It is probable that an uniform adherence to just principles towards them, would have changed entirely the modes of life of these noble people. They who are in contact with us, know now thoroughly, and they feel acutely the evils of their present forlorn condition; but no hand protects them from the manifest

and unsparing superiority of those whose immediate interests their own worst indulgences promote.

The submission of a lunatic to the fixed countenance of his keeper is not more decided than that of a home Indian to some of their connections amongst the whites. That the relation should exist in this character, need only be stated to be abhorred. The presentiment they have of the extinction of their race, is very melancholy. It was but lately, that the chief of a small tribe near the Rice Lake, said to an European settler, " You will soon drive us away, but when a solitary canoe sometimes passes by your dwelling, do not forget that the owner always received you at his with welcome."

If the principles on which William Penn acted had prevailed; or if Franklin's advice to " treat the Indians with justice always, and sometimes with kindness," had been generally attended to, fewer European individuals might

have enriched themselves in America, but the nations of Europe would have been less responsible than they now are for the permission of much crime.

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